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House of Representatives

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SEWELL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 15, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TERRI A. SEWELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

RECOGNIZING DR. NGOZI EZIKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ngozi Ezike, a dedicated public servant whose last day as director of the Illinois Department of Public Health was yesterday.

For the past 3 years, Dr. Ezike worked tirelessly to protect the health and well-being of the people of Illinois, including leading our State's public

health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of historic challenges, she remained dedicated to her job and making sure that the people of Illinois always had the most accurate information about how to best protect themselves and their families.

Amid an onslaught of social media misinformation and conspiracy theories, Dr. Ezike helped make sure that Illinois' COVID response operated in reality and was grounded in science. She always made sure that the scientists and public health experts were heard by our elected officials.

Dr. Ezike is a trailblazer—not only because she was Illinois' first Black woman to serve as the director of the department of public health but because she was called to lead a State-wide public health response to an unprecedented pandemic, and she did not blink.

There is no doubt that her work helped save lives in Illinois. So on behalf of the people of our State, I thank Dr. Ezike for her service, and I wish her nothing but the best in whatever she decides to do next.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS: CLEAN DRINKING WATER

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, for decades the city of Joliet has lived under the threat of unsafe drinking water from lead pipes used in service lines to individual homes. In recent years, the lowering of the water tables has threatened even the long-term availability of drinking water to Joliet, and that is why I am so proud that the Federal omnibus recently passed by Congress included \$3.5 million for the city of Joliet to help tap into Lake Michigan as the primary source of drinking water and to accelerate the replacement of lead service lines, thereby helping to secure clean and safe drinking water for the entire Joliet community for decades to come.

Altogether, our office secured nearly \$19 million for very worthwhile projects in Illinois' 11th District that

will benefit our entire community, and this will be taxpayer money well spent.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS: STEPPING STONES

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, for decades substance abuse disorder has torn apart families in Will County and around the country. Often families with young children had nowhere to turn to. That is why I am so proud that the Federal omnibus recently passed by Congress included \$2 million for Stepping Stones—a nonprofit that provides clinical services and recovery support for those seeking treatment for substance use disorders so that they can build new housing units for women seeking treatment.

Altogether, our office secured nearly \$19 million for very worthwhile projects in Illinois' 11th District that will benefit our entire community, and this will be taxpayer money well spent.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, for decades, Will County has grappled with issues of affordable housing, an issue that has become more and more important in communities large and small across our country.

That is why I am so proud that the Federal omnibus recently passed by Congress included \$3 million for the Housing Authority of Joliet to help turn a shuttered golf course into quality, affordable housing for hardworking families who deserve access to the dream of homeownership.

Altogether, our office secured nearly \$19 million for very worthwhile projects in Illinois' 11th District that will benefit our entire community, and this will be taxpayer money well spent.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS: THE OLD JOLIET PRISON

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, for decades the Old Joliet Prison has served as the backdrop of Hollywood movies like "The Blues Brothers" and hit TV shows like "Prison Break." But years of neglect have left the site unsafe and closed to visitors.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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That is why I am so proud that the Federal omnibus recently passed by Congress included \$3 million for the Joliet Area Historical Museum so that they can rehabilitate the site of the Old Joliet Prison and make it safe for visitors once again and enhance its potential as a tourist attraction. This project is shovel-ready and will help create and sustain much-needed construction jobs while restoring a historically and culturally significant site in an economically challenged part of the city.

Altogether, our office secured nearly \$19 million for very worthwhile projects in Illinois' 11th District that will benefit our entire community, and this will be taxpayer money well spent.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS: AURORA QUAD COUNTY
URBAN LEAGUE

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, for decades, America has faced a deficit of job training opportunities from underserved and underrepresented communities, and that is why I am so proud that the Federal omnibus recently passed by Congress included \$425,000 for the Aurora Quad County Urban League so that they can launch a youth careers program in Aurora to connect young people with jobs and apprenticeship opportunities in construction, transportation, distribution of logistics, and all fields facing an increase in and need for Federally trained workers.

RUSSIA NEGOTIATES THE U.S.- IRAN DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, before I begin today's remarks, I will take a moment to acknowledge the devastating news of the two confirmed American deaths in Ukraine: Brent Renaud, an American journalist working with a documentary film team who was fatally shot over the weekend; and FOX News network just confirmed moments ago one of their cameramen, Pierre Zakrzewski, was killed while on assignment in Ukraine.

An entire nation grieves with their families as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

We also continue to pray for the recovery of FOX News correspondent, Benjamin Hall, who suffered serious injuries while covering the war.

Now, Madam Speaker, on Sunday, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard fired dozens of missiles near the U.S. consulate in Iraq. This brazen attack on a civilian area by the terrorist arm of the Iranian regime was unjustified, illegal, and dangerous.

Madam Speaker, the President of the United States has not said one word about these missiles from Iran—which has bragged about it—towards the U.S. consulate in Iraq. Iran continues to wage an aggressive terror campaign against America and our allies.

Remember, Madam Speaker, Iran's Parliament has chanted "death to

America" and the commander in chief of the Revolutionary Guard has vowed to set ablaze Israel. I would think with missiles being shot at Americans that the Secretary of State and—at the very least—the President of the United States would say and stand against this. Yet, the Biden administration is quietly rushing ahead with a bad agreement that would give Iran—the world's leading state sponsor of terror—nuclear weapons.

President Biden has kept Congress and the American people in the dark about this dangerous deal which is illegal and goes against legislation this body has passed. Madam Speaker, when you look at the troubling terms, it is easily seen why they want to keep us and America in the dark.

It would lift our most significant terrorism and missile sanctions and send Iran hundreds of billions of dollars. That means that Iran would see the windfall of cash to continue their terror campaign they had engaged in on Sunday and every day.

This agreement is entirely on Iran's terms.

But what is even worse is: Who is negotiating it?

While the world looks at the evil of Putin and Russia killing innocent people and murdering throughout Ukraine, it is this administration that has Russia negotiating with Iran on America's behalf.

Now, what does the Russian Ambassador say?

He says that the deal that the Biden administration is negotiating gives Iran much more than it could expect, much more. And in return for making significant concessions, we get nothing: no serious system to check if the Iranian regime is cheating on the terms of the deal; no safeguards against Iranian terrorism like we saw on Sunday targeting Americans; no leverage over the expanded trade between Russia, China, and Iran; and nothing to help the Iranian people.

This reported agreement is even worse than the Obama Iran deal of 2015. Under the terms of this deal, Iran would be a nuclear state in the blink of an eye. It would have enough uranium to create nuclear bombs which would endanger America, Israel, and the entire world.

This is not only unthinkable, it is unacceptable. We should not allow the rogue Iranian regime to have nuclear weapons. The Biden administration has made a dangerous mistake by negotiating with the Iranian regime.

They made terrible mistakes time and again, how they pulled out of Afghanistan, welcomed a pipeline to Putin, and said in a press conference that if Putin just takes part of Ukraine, it wouldn't be so bad.

And now Iran sends weapons—missiles—at Americans, and not one word is said but a negotiation continues using Russia as our negotiator. This Biden administration has made a dangerous mistake.

Furthermore, President Biden has compounded his mistake by relying on Russia to negotiate on our behalf and reportedly has given them written guarantees that the deal would protect their trade with Tehran.

Think about that: We are making major concessions on Russian trade with Iran at the very moment we are sanctioning Russia for mercilessly killing Ukrainians. That is outrageous and just plain stupid.

Has President Biden learned nothing?

Our objective is to isolate Putin, not empower him. The Russians should not be responsible for anything—especially not a major deal—and should never speak on behalf of Americans.

Madam Speaker, I urge President Biden to make the right choice: Walk away. Because knowing when to walk away from the negotiating table is just as important as knowing when to sit down.

It is also very important to know when to stand up. If a terrorist country sends weapons and missiles to attack Americans and you stay silent, that is the wrong answer, the wrong response, and leads to a dangerous future.

Stand up for America, stand up for freedom, stand up for what is right, and walk away from this agreement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, we all anticipate and await the presentation from an international hero. Hearing from President Zelensky tomorrow is exactly what this Congress and what the Nation needs to hear. I believe that we will come out united. Certainly, our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Ukraine and the bravery of President Zelensky.

Madam Speaker, I am here to also talk about another urgency here at home. The fierce urgency of now, as Martin Luther King said, would apply to seniors all across our country. We are all painfully aware of the results of the pandemic with more than 900,000 Americans having perished and over 660,000 of them over the age of 65.

Madam Speaker, you know firsthand as well because you led Chairman NEAL's racial equity initiative that also underscored this very group of people—seniors and especially people of color—who have been impacted the most.

As John Lewis said: This is the next major civil rights issue. And if Black Lives Matter and is more than just a slogan, it is long overdue for the Congress of the United States to take action.

I commend you, Madam Speaker, for your efforts in making sure that we